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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-first year

Letter dated 3 April 1996 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On instructions from my Government and further to our earlier letters concerning Israeli practices and repeated Israeli attacks in southern Lebanon and the western Bekaa, I have the honour to inform you of a series of Israeli attacks that occurred during the first half of March 1996:

4 March 1996

The southern hills of Mashgharah and the area outside Ayn al-Tinah came under Israeli artillery fire.

The outskirts of Tibnin, Ayta al-Jabal, Bra'shit, Shaqra, Majdal Silm, Qabrikha and Tulin came under Israeli artillery fire.

Israeli forces arrested Chief Inspector Hasan Ghusn of the Marj Uyun Police Department and took him to the Khiam detention centre.

6 March 1996

The southern quarter of Arabsalim was the target of sniping from the Israeli positions on Suwaida' Hill, resulting in the killing of Lebanese nationals Ali Muhammad As'ad Khattab, aged 28 years, and Ahmad Na'im Haydar, aged 59 years.

The villages of Kafra, Yatar, Haris and Tibnin came under Israeli artillery fire.

* A/51/50.

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7 March 1996

At 0600 hours Israeli forces shelled the outskirts of Tibnin, Ayta al-Jabal, Haddatha, Bra'shit, Haris, Safad al-Battikh and Jumayjimah.

Israeli forces and Lahad forces shelled the outskirts of Mashgharah and Ayn al-Tinah.

At 1200 hours Israeli forces fired on fishing boats off the locality of Ma'liyah in Tyre.

At 2230 hours Israeli military aircraft overflew Mashgharah, Ayn al-Tinah and Maydun.

9 March 1996

The outskirts of Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Kafr Tibnit and Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and Nabatiyah came under Israeli artillery fire, which resulted in material damage to the church in Nabatiyah and to the home of Hasan Muhammad Harb, a 62-year-old Lebanese national.

10 March 1996

At 0600 hours the outskirts of Nabatiyah al-Fawqa, the abandoned barracks of the Lebanese army there and the outskirts of Kafr Tibnit, Zawtar al-Sharqiyah and Zawtar al-Gharbiyah came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1100 hours Kafr Tibnit, Yatar, Haddatha, Haris, Ayta al-Jabal, Tibnin, Bra'shit and Shaqra came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1430 hours the area around Ayn al-Tinah and the southern outskirts of Mashgharah came under artillery fire from Israeli positions and Lahad forces.

11 March 1996

At 0600 hours the outskirts of Bra'shit, Tibnin, Ayta al-Jabal, Haddatha and Haris came under Israeli artillery fire and Israeli helicopters combed the area. No casualties were reported.

The Israeli navy detained a fishing boat bearing the name Ilham I, No. 890. The following persons were on board: Mahmud Ahmad Al-Husayni, Wisam Abbas Tafla and Ashraf Hasan Nur al-Din.

At 1430 hours the outskirts of Jarju', Arabsalim and Ayn Bu Siwar, areas along the Zahrani river, the Mlita hills and Jabal Safi came under Israeli artillery fire.

12 March 1996

At 0840 hours the outskirts of Tibnin came under Israeli artillery fire.

13 March 1996

At 0545 hours Haddatha, Haris, Tibnin, Bra'shit, Kafra, Shaqra, Majdal Silm, Qabrikha and Tulin and the areas surrounding them came under Israeli artillery fire, with the result that two persons were wounded.

The eastern quarter of Kafr Rumman, residential quarters in Nabatiyah al-Fawqa and Nabatiyah al-Tahta and the southern quarter of Arabsalim came under Israeli artillery fire, resulting in injuries to Lebanese Army Private Khalid Uwayd, Fatima Nayif Ghandur, Batul Hasan Atawi, in Nabatiyah al-Fawqa, and Yusif Muhaydali, in Kafr Rumman, and damage to the model school and the teacher training college in Nabatiyah and to the homes of Sergeant Abd Al-Latif Al-Zayn, Jamila Ali Muzhir, Awatif Husayn Mudallaj, Mahmud Muhammad Abu Zayd, in Kafr Rumman, Yusif Muhammad Hammada and Muhammad Abd Allah Salama.

At 1140 hours Israeli military aircraft overflew the Tyre region.

At 1245 hours Israeli military aircraft overflew the Iqlim al-Tuffah region.

14 March 1996

At 1045 hours Tibnin and the outskirts of Bra'shit came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1430 hours the Mlita hills, Jabal Safi and the outskirts of Jarju', Arabsalim and Ayn Bu Siwar came under Israeli artillery fire. This occurred again at 1530 hours on the same day, at which time it included Jabba', Ayn Bu Siwar, Ayn Qana, Kafr Fila and the surrounding areas.

At 1500 hours two Israeli helicopters overflew the Mashgharah and Ayn al-Tinah hills, which came under Israeli artillery fire.

15 March 1996

At 0530 hours the southern hills of Mashgharah and Ayn al-Tinah came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 1330 hours the outskirts of the village of Dayr Amis (Tyre) came under Israeli artillery fire.

At 2030 hours the artillery bombardment of the Mashgharah hills resumed.

The Lebanese Government strongly condemns these repeated Israeli attacks, which have brought death and injury to persons and caused enormous damage to property. It further condemns in the strongest terms the arbitrary practices against civilians.

In conjunction with the previous attacks, this new series constitutes flagrant aggression against the sovereignty and independence of Lebanon and represents a violation of international law and fundamental human rights.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 33 of the provisional agenda, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Samir MOUBARAK
Ambassador
Permanent Representative